

QUARTERS No. 210

(Castillo De San Christobal, Quarters No. 210)
San Juan National Historic Site
Boulevard Norzagaray
San Juan
San Juan County
Puerto Rico

HABS No. PR-96

HABS
PR
7-SAJV,
51-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

QUARTERS No. 210

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Location: Boulevard Norzagaray, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Present Owner: U.S. National Park Service

Present Use: Residence (vacant)

Historical Information:

The main wing of Quarters No. 210 was built between 1857-59 by the Spanish Corps of Engineers and Artillery, as military quarters. A plan of existing conditions (1880)¹ shows it as a building separate from Quarters No. 209 to the north but the elevation towards the street of the two buildings were treated as a unit. The present gateway between the two buildings was treated as an entrance door and the buildings were tied together by a common parapet and cornice.

The same plan also shows a proposal for a three-story building immediately to the south of Quarters No. 210 replacing two smaller structures, respectively two and one story. The smaller structures were subsequently removed at an unknown date while the proposal for the three-story structure was never realized.

A photograph predating 1898 (original furnished by Headquarters Antilles Command, copy negative EODC 2602) presumably from the 1880s, shows the two smaller structures and the main wing of Quarters No. 210 but not the north wing on the east side of the lot. According to a secondary source, the buildings were reconstructed in 1884. It is possible the secondary wing was added then, but there is at present no definite information available on the date of its construction.

The arcaded porches on the yard are late additions and date from the 1930-40s.

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Architectural Information:

The building is a one-story stucco masonry structure L shaped in plan with a flat concrete slab roof behind a parapet wall. It stands on a level plateau cut out of sloping terrain west of San Cristobal. The Plateau is bordered to the west Boulevard Norzagaray.

The plateau is 11'- 6" above street level at its southwest corner. To the south the plateau is defined by a retaining wall facing on the lower level of Quarters No. 211. To the east the north-south wing of Quarters No. 210 is built into the hillside and acts as the retaining wall for the higher terrain of the San Christobal grounds. The main wing of quarters No. 211 forms the north border of the plateau for its full length 99'- 5". Its narrow end 25'- 6" faces on Boulevard Norzagaray.

The floor level of the building is 3'- 9" above the street level at its northwest corner and 17'- 2" below the top of the parapet.

From its junction with the main wing the north-south wing measures 47'- 9" and is 30'- 1" wide.

The architectural treatment is limited to banding of corners, parapets, window and door openings, an articulated base and classical revival cornice on the street side. An arcaded concrete porch has been added across the two center bays of the main wing on its south side and along the full length of the secondary on its west side. Both porches are covered in Spanish tile.

South of the building the retaining wall towards the street is topped with a fence consisting of five capped square posts with articulated bases and tunnel baluster and nails.

A gate and steps between the second and third posts from the north provides access from the north provides access from the street level to the yard between the two wings of the building.

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1. Proyecto de Reparacion y Reforma de Las Pabellones de Artilleria, Plan of 1880
Archivos de los Indios, Copy San Juan National Historic Site.